

Georgia's 11th Congressional District who has distinguished himself as an excellent student and leader and has committed to serving his country. I am proud to announce that Scott Rowe from Kennesaw, Georgia has received an appointment to the United States Naval Academy. Scott attends Harrison High School, where he has a 3.75 Grade Point Average and has earned the College Board AP Scholar Award. Scott is also a member of Mensa. In addition to Scott's focus on academics, he has remained very active in extracurricular activities. He is on Harrison's wrestling and swim teams and is President of the school's Integrity Team.

Scott is also very involved in community service activities, such as Habitat for Humanity. Scott Rowe is an incredibly well-rounded young man, and I am honored to have the privilege to nominate him for an appointment to the U.S. Naval Academy. I ask that my colleagues take this time to congratulate Scott as well as his parents, Larry and Barbara Rowe, for his accomplishments. It is because of dedicated young people like Scott that America has the finest military in the world. Our nation is fortunate to have his service.

TRIBUTE TO JOHNSON COUNTY ASSISTANT ELECTION COMMISSIONER KAREN BROWNING

**HON. DENNIS MOORE**

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 9, 2009*

Mr. MOORE of Kansas. Madam Speaker, I am pleased to have this opportunity to pay Karen Browning, who recently stepped down after 41 years of service with the Johnson County, Kansas, Election Office, including 27 years as Assistant Election Commissioner.

Dedicated, experienced public servants like Karen Browning are the glue that holds government together at all levels, but they often do not receive the respect and consideration that they deserve. Karen Browning's retirement took from her office 41 years of deep devotion to her community and an intricate knowledge of the rules and history of Johnson County elections—a background that the citizens of Johnson County will find to be irreplaceable. I am pleased to have this opportunity to share with the other members of the House of Representatives a brief profile of Karen Browning which recently was published in the Johnson County Sun. I know that all Johnson Countians join with me in wishing Karen Browning all the best as she embarks upon her much deserved retirement, and we also thank her for her years of dedicated service and work to ensure that Johnson County elections have been conducted in a manner above reproach.

ELECTION OFFICIAL RETIRES AFTER SERVING 40 YEARS

(By Chuck Kurtz)

It was a one-issue, one-candidate "election" and assistant election commissioner Karen Browning cast the only vote: "Yes to Proposition Retirement."

After nearly 41 years with the Johnson County Election Office in Olathe, Browning officially retired May 22; a reception in her honor is planned for 3 to 6 p.m. June 17 at the Election Office, 2101 E. Kansas City Road, Southeast of Bass Pro, where Kansas

Secretary of State Ron Thornburgh will pay tribute to her service.

Also speaking will be County Chairwoman Annabeth Surbaugh and Johnson County Election Commissioner Brian Newby.

Browning said she always will look back on her career with great fondness.

"My time at the Election Office was an incredible experience, full of hard work, passion for elections and democracy," she said. "It has been a great career that I have always enjoyed, but it's time for a new chapter in my life and to take it easy." In the past 40 years Browning has: Worked in more than 200 Johnson County elections, including 11 presidential elections; Served under six of Johnson County's eight election commissioners and 32 county commissioners; and, Watched the county's voter registration increase almost fourfold.

She said she welcomed the end to hand-counting thousands of paper ballots when the county switched to touch-screen voting machines. Counting paper ballots is time consuming, she said, and computers bring quicker results and less stress.

Browning's passion for the importance of voting was instilled in her as a child.

"My folks always talked about voting and how important it was," she said. "I started when I was young. Voting was already an important part of my life."

That led to her passion for doing her best as an employee at the election office. Newby said Browning was a walking encyclopedia and office historian. She has complete records on every election since she has been with the county.

"If anyone has a question about a past election, Karen is the person to ask," he said.

"She has given so much to our county and to our voters; she provided the best return on tax dollars that could ever be imagined," Newby said. "She leaves with the distinction of being the most effective election office employee ever in Johnson County."

In Browning's first presidential election Nov. 5, 1968, a total of 88,314 of Johnson County's 100,610 registered voters cast their ballots. In her last presidential election, Nov. 5, 2008, a total of 285,001 of the 364,441 registered voters cast ballots.

Her first job at the election office was as a key punch operator since all voter registration cards and reports were typed by hand.

"When we processed registrations, we typed them into the books that went to the polling places," she said. "We typed men on one page and women on another, which I found very interesting."

Newby said Browning has been instrumental in the evolution of the voter registration process, which she has overseen for many years.

In 1978, Browning was named election clerk supervisor followed by election manager in 1979 with primary responsibilities for voter registration and list maintenance.

She has served as assistant election commissioner the past 27 years.

Browning also has overseen Census and mapping operations, and knows Johnson County geography like the back of her hand, since any "visible ground feature" might someday be needed as a precinct boundary.

Although the election process has experienced significant changes over the years, Browning said one thing has not changed. The integrity of the ballot, even from a touch-screen voting machine, is still held sacred, and that requires rigorous adherence to the office's confirmation procedures, she said.

Browning has mixed feelings about leaving Johnson County public service, but admits she will most miss the people.

"Elections begin and end with people," she said.

In retirement, Browning plans to spend more time with her family, and continue to volunteer in her many civic and church activities.

Her family includes three sons, three grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren.

"We will miss her and wish her well," Newby said, "but we are gratified to know that she will always be a phone call away to advise us if we have a thorny issue. We even offered—threatened, I guess—to continue equipping her with a Blackberry so she could still be in the e-mail loop and give us guidance."

So far, no response from Browning.

**EARMARK DECLARATION**

**HON. JO ANN EMERSON**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 9, 2009*

Mrs. EMERSON. Madam Speaker, pursuant to the House Republican standards on earmarks, I am submitting the following information in regards to the Fiscal Year 2010 Commerce, Justice, and Science Appropriations Bill and the Fiscal Year 2010 Homeland Security Appropriations Bill.

Requesting Member: Representative JO ANN EMERSON

Bill: Fiscal Year 2010 Commerce, Justice, and Science Appropriations Bill

Account: OJP-Byrne

Requesting Entity: Southeast Missouri Network Against Sexual Violence

Address of Requesting Entity: 1106 Missouri Avenue, West Plains, Missouri 65775

Description of Request: To provide an earmark of \$200,000 to the Southeast Missouri Network Against Sexual Violence (SEMO NASV) to equip and staff an office in the Bootheel of Missouri to assist victims of domestic and sexual violence, as well as support local law enforcement investigations. SEMO NASV provides services to over 700 adult and child victims of sexual and physical abuse. The organization serves a 10 county region in Southeastern Missouri. It plays a vital role in the process of convicting sex offenders, provides counseling and other services to victims. The funds will be spent as follows: \$126,000 for personnel, \$59,000 for equipment, \$12,000 for office space, and \$3,000 for training and travel.

Requesting Member: Representative JO ANN EMERSON

Bill Number: Fiscal Year 2010 Commerce, Justice, and Science Appropriations Bill.

Account: COPS-Meth

Requesting Entity: Southeast Missouri Drug Task Force

Address of Requesting Entity: P.O. Box 1763, Sikeston, Missouri 63801

Description of Request: Provide an earmark of \$200,000 to supplement and support operations of the Southeast Missouri Drug Task Force (SEMO DTF). SEMO DTF is a multi-jurisdictional drug task force unit that serves a 10-county area of Southeast Missouri. The unit conducts both covert and overt investigations into the possession, manufacture, and distribution of controlled substances. The funds will be spent as follows: \$32,000 for personnel, \$89,000 for overtime compensation, \$66,000 for equipment, \$4,500 for telecommunication services, \$6,000 for supplies, and \$2,500 for personnel expenses.

Requesting Member: Representative JO ANN EMERSON

Bill: Fiscal Year 2010 Commerce, Justice, and Science Appropriations Bill

Account: COPS-Meth

Requesting Entity: Mineral Area Drug Task Force/City of Leadington, Missouri

Address of Requesting Entity: P.O. Box 349, Farmington, MO 63640

Description of Request: Provide an earmark of \$200,000 to assist with funding Mineral Area Drug Task Force's enforcement efforts in locating, dismantling, and reducing the number of methamphetamine laboratories within the area of their operation. Approximately \$124,000 is for the purchase of equipment to assist officers in their investigations, \$36,000 is for overtime for officers assigned to methamphetamine investigations, \$16,000 is for office and field supplies to assist officers in the preparation of reports and to provide supplies to facilitate the processing of clandestine labs, and \$24,000 is for travel and training to equip officers with the knowledge to efficiently perform their duties.

Requesting Member: Representative JO ANN EMERSON

Bill: Fiscal Year 2010 Commerce, Justice, and Science Appropriations Bill

Account: COPS-Meth

Requesting Entity: Howell County, Missouri

Address of Requesting Entity: 1106 Missouri Avenue, West Plains, Missouri 65775

Description of Request: Provide an earmark of \$250,000 for the South Central Drug Task Force to enhance drug enforcement in project area. South Central Drug Task Force is a multijurisdictional drug enforcement task force, and an existing HIDTA initiative within Midwest HIDTA, comprised of federal, state, and local law enforcement officers including nine Sheriffs Departments, Municipal Police Departments, Missouri State Highway Patrol, United States Forest Service, and United States Park Service. Approximately \$50,000 in overtime funding for existing narcotics officers; \$122,500 for technical surveillance and reporting equipment; \$65,000 for civilian personnel/Intel analyst; and \$12,500 for consumable supplies.

Requesting Member: Representative JO ANN EMERSON

Bill: Fiscal Year 2010 Commerce, Justice, and Science Appropriations Bill

Account: COPS-Law Enforcement Technology

Requesting Entity: St. Francois County, Missouri

Address of Requesting Entity: 102 Industrial Drive, Park Hills, MO 63601

Description of Request: Provide an earmark for the Southeast Missouri Law Enforcement District for \$697,000 project for the following counties of the 8th Congressional District to acquire and greatly benefit from availability of a Law Enforcement Visual Tool: Iron, Washington, and Bollinger. Federal, state, and local agencies will have a common tool to jointly manage emergencies. The project enhances public safety, officer safety, by placing sophisticated geospatial intelligence information in the hands of emergency responders. The funding would be used as follows: \$12,000 for project administration, \$675,000 for image libraries, and \$10,000 for equipment.

Requesting Member: Representative JO ANN EMERSON

Bill: Fiscal Year 2010 Homeland Security Appropriations Bill

Account: State and Local Programs

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Howell County Emergency Preparedness

Address of Requesting Entity: 3 Courthouse, West Plains, Missouri 65775

Description of Request: Provide an earmark for \$250,000 for an Emergency Operations Center in West Plains, Missouri. The Emergency Operations Center will serve the residents of Howell County and surrounding counties in the region in case of any natural or man-made hazards. The funding is budgeted at approximately \$7,275 for administrative and legal expenses; \$81,000 for land, structures, right-of-ways, appraisals, etc.; \$2,925 for project inspection and architectural and engineering fees; \$153,175 for equipment, construction and miscellaneous items; \$5,625 for contingencies.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

#### HON. KURT SCHRADER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 9, 2009

Mr. SCHRADER. Madam Speaker, on June 8, 2009 I missed rollcall votes 311, 312, and 313 due to personal reasons. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye" on all three votes.

#### A TRIBUTE IN REMEMBRANCE OF DENNIS J. TAYLOR

#### HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 9, 2009

Mr. TOWNS. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Dennis J. Taylor, a community activist and ordained minister who has impacted Brooklyn in countless ways.

Dennis Taylor has been living and serving the East New York and Brownsville communities for more than twenty years. He began his career as a volunteer, ministering and advocating for the rights of community residents. For a number of years, Mr. Taylor served as a community organizer for a local nonprofit organization where he assisted residents by empowering them through the creation of tenant and block associations. As a member of Community Board #5, Dennis Taylor leads the council in creating positive change for all residents, regardless of their ethnicity or culture.

As the founder and executive director of The Sabaoth Group, Inc., Dennis Taylor conceived and developed strategies that provide community support services to more than 800 families in the East New York, Brownsville, Bushwick and Bedford-Stuyvesant communities. He is the primary coordinator of services and initiatives, in addition to securing funding through foundations, government grants and Requests for Proposals. Mr. Taylor developed strategies to create linkages between community law enforcement, community residents and faith-based organizations. He also created initiatives and developed strategies for resident advocacy, tenant organizing and community activism while conducting tenant relocations for more than 300 families. Mr. Taylor is also a founding partner in TDT De-

velopment, LLC, a community housing development organization.

Mr. Taylor began his involvement in tenant services by leading the residents of a dangerously neglected city-owned property through a process of renewed commitment from the City of New York and their subsequent resettlement. He has a reputation for producing consistent results and maintaining honor and integrity in the community. Mr. Taylor sits on various steering and advisory committees in East New York.

In 2006, Dennis Taylor became an ordained Minister who has garnered a sterling reputation in the East New York community.

Dennis Taylor is married to Anita Joyner-Taylor. He has two daughters (Danesha and Keyaira), and two granddaughters (Faith and Patience). Mr. Taylor holds an A.A.S. in Computer Technology, a Certificate from Fordham University in Social Work and numerous certificates from the Department of Housing Preservation and Development. Mr. Taylor is a first call advisor to many grassroots organizations seeking guidance, direction and/or logistical assistance in the acquisition of their goals and objectives.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing Dennis J. Taylor.

#### KELSEY MAY

#### HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 9, 2009

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Kelsey May who has received the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Kelsey May is a senior at Arvada High School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Kelsey May is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential that students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic that will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations once again to Kelsey May for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication she has shown in her academic career to her future accomplishments.

#### TRIBUTE TO DAVID J. KEARS

#### HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 9, 2009

Mr. STARK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay to tribute to David J. Kears, Agency Director for the Alameda County Healthcare Services Agency. Mr. Kears is retiring from his position and a farewell party has been planned in his honor on June 10, 2009.

Mr. Kears' scholastic endeavors brought him to the University of California, Berkeley, where he graduated in 1968 with a major in Sociology. He continued his graduate work at